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5-24-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Patent Application of)
NAKAE *et al.*)
Filed: Herewith on March 17, 2000) Attention: OIPE
Application Number: To be Assigned)
For: Primer Design System)

Honorable Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

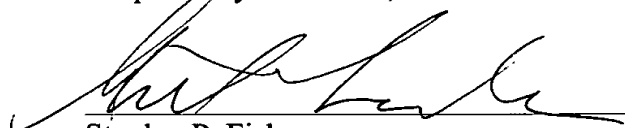
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 13-18 without prejudice or disclaimer.

REMARKS

Applicants have canceled claims 13-18 from the present application as being directed to an invention which is patentably distinct from the invention claimed in claims 1-12. Claims 13-18 are being pursued in a second application being filed concurrently herewith.

Respectfully submitted,



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